

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /065 W
-----088393 280511Z /10
R 270830Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6152
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 3614

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CM
SUBJECT: ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

1. ON 11 JULY 1978, AZZOUT HADJ BEN-ABDELKADER, ALGERIA'S AMBASSADOR TO CAMEROON PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT AHIDJO. HE IS THE FIRST ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR ACREDITED TO CAMEROON TO RESIDE IN YAOUNDE.

2. YAOUNDE AND ALGIERS ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN 1963. INITIALLY, ALGERIA'S AMBASSADOR TO CAMEROON RESIDED IN BRAZZA-VILLE AND CAMEROONIAN AMBASSADOR TO TUNIS WAS ACCREDITED TO ALGERIA. HOWEVER, IN 1974 CAMEROON MOVED THEIR CHARGE TO ALGIERS AND ALGERIA ASSIGNED A VERY ENERGETIC CHARGE TO YAOUNDE.

3. AHIDJO VISITED ALGERIA IN 1971 AND 1977. BOUMEDIEENE MADE A SHORT STOP IN GAROUA IN 1975. BILATERAL RELATIONS I.E. GROWING TRADE RELATIONSHIPS AND AFRICAN QUESTIONS MAINLY WESTERN SAHARA, WERE REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED AT THE LAST MEETINGS.

4. ALGERIA'S CHIEF IMPORTS FROM CAMEROON ARE WOOD, BANANAS, GROUND NUTS, WHICH TOTALLED \$440,000 LAST YEAR. CAMEROON'S IMPORTS WERE NEGLIGIBLE.

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5. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT ALGERIA BELONGS TO AN INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM WHICH IS INTERESTED IN EXPLOITING THE MINIMATIP BAUXITE RESERVES NEAR NGAOUNDERE. BUT DUE TO START UP COSTS ESTIMATED IN EXCESS OF ONE BILLION DOLLARS, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THIS PROJECT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

6. COMMENT: ALGERIA'S DECISION TO UPGRADE REPRESENTATION IN YAOUNDE HAD BEEN EXPECTED FOR ALMOST A YEAR. IT SUGGESTS A DESIRE BY ALGERIA TO FACILITATE DIALOGUE WITH A MODERATE AFRICAN STATE AND AGAIN SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITION ON ISSUES PERTAINING TO WEST SAHARA AND CANARY ISLANDS. CAMEROON, KEEN ON MAINTAINING ITS NON-ALIGNMENT STATES, IN SPITE OF MISGIVINGS WITH ALGERIA BASED ON THAT COUNTRY'S PAST SUPPORT OF THE UPC OPPOSITION, NOW IS WILLING TO AT LEAST ACCEPT AN AMBASSADOR, PERHAPS TO ASCERTAIN WHAT, IF ANY, FUTURE ECONOMIC RELATIONS MIGHT BE PROMOTED.
SMYTHE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978YAOUND03614
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780309-0575
Format: TEL
From: YAOUNDE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780712/aaaaajti.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6d7f566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1861105
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS
TAGS: PINT, CM, AG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6d7f566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014